

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT/EP2003/011262



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

31 MAR 2005

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 2002-1011 P	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Form PCT/IPEA/416	
International application No. PCT/EP2003/011262	International filing date (day/month/year) 10 October 2003 (10.10.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 10 October 2002 (10.10.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G03G 15/16		
Applicant OCE PRINTING SYSTEMS GMBH		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
 - a. ☒ (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of 7 sheets, as follows:
 - ☐ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
 - ☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
 - b. ☐ (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 07 May 2004 (07.05.2004)	Date of completion of this report 05 October 2004 (05.10.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2003/011262

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is language of a translation furnished for the purpose of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

- ☐ The international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages _____ 1-3, 5-21 _____, as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ 4 _____ received by this Authority on _____ 26 August 2004 (26.08.2004)
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- pages _____, as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- pages* _____ 1-30 _____ received by this Authority on _____ 26 August 2004 (26.08.2004)
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- pages _____ 1/7-7/7 _____, as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP 03/11262

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-30	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-30	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-30	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

1. Preliminary observation

Two different claim twos have been submitted. In the version corrected by hand, claim 2 defines two inserts and corresponds to the originally submitted claim 2. The claim 2 as per the fair copy repeats a feature of the newly submitted claim 1 (hollow chamber profile) and is thus superfluous. Therefore the following report is based on the version corrected by hand.

2. D1 (EP-A-0 425 227), which is considered the closest prior art, discloses an electrostatic image-generating system. Figure 1 shows a conveyor belt unit 4 and a fixing device 5. The two devices can be used and removed separately from each other for maintenance purposes. The subject matter of claim 1 differs from that of D1 in that a hollow chamber wall is provided between the conveyor belt unit and the fixing device.

Therefore the subject matter of claim 1 is novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

- 3.1 The problem addressed by the present invention can thus be considered that of preventing heat from being transferred between the fixing and conveyer belt devices.

The proposed solution is not suggested to a person skilled in the art by the disclosure in D1. Even taking account of another document, D2 (JP-A-08 185 106), which describes a movable wall 811 which is arranged between the fixing device and conveyer belt unit and exposes the connection path between the latter during the printing process, the hollow chamber wall solution described in the present application is not suggested. The hollow chamber profile enables air to be drawn off, which further improves the cooling effect.

Therefore the subject matter of claim 1 involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

- 3.2 Independent method claim 19 corresponds to claim 1 and hence likewise meets the requirements of PCT Article 33(2) and (3).
4. Claims 2 to 18 and 20 to 30 are dependent on claims 1 and 19, respectively, and hence likewise meet the PCT novelty and inventive step requirements (PCT Article 33(2) and (3)).
5. The subject matter of all the claims (1 to 30) has industrial applicability (PCT Article 33(4)).